Equal Rights

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Ethel Leginska

Conductor of the National Woman's Symphony Orchestra, who is internationally recognized in the three-fold capacity of conductor, composer and pianist. Leginska, who is a member of the Woman's Party and an ardent Feminist, has learned, through her own struggles to express her genius in an ultra-masculine culture, the necessity of working for equal opportunities for the two sexes in all avenues of human endeavor. Her radio-speech, delivered on March 4 over Station WJZ, New York City, appears in this issue.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House January 11, 1932, by REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUDLOW, Indiana.

Life vs. Liberty

THE pathetic story of the life of Clara Schumann which Ethel Leginska tells, in the course of her article on the next page of this issue, epitomizes the dilemma which women have faced in the past and which, to some extent, they face still, even under modern social conditions. Women of Clara Schumann's era had a hard choice to make, and it may well be that because they decided rightly we of this generation are permitted to tread the planet. On the one hand were their gifts, their potentialities, their genius, and on the other hand were their homes and their children. Liberty to develop their own abilities, that is liberty of a quality enjoyed by men, was set definitely against the racial values of reproduction and child welfare.

In the absence of preventive medicine it was necessary for women to bear a sufficient number of children to offset the ravages of plague and pestilence. Families of twelve, fourteen or sixteen children were almost a biological requirement if the race was to go on. This predicated the direction of women's physical energy almost entirely toward reproduction, for a woman cannot bear a child every year or so from the age of sixteen onward and have much excess strength to expend upon things of the spirit. In addition obstetrical care was then altogether inadequate, with the result that after the first pregnancy many women became more or less invalided.

With her delivery, moreover, the problem of the woman became more rather than less complicated. The new life she found in her arms required watching. By day and by night it made implacable inroads on her time, and as the years passed the complexities of the situation became ever more numerous. A small baby sleeps most of the time, and if healthy makes little trouble, but a child of two years is in perpetual motion and danger. A child of five years requires education and training, and in Clara Schumann's day there were no schools, no adequate centers for child training, where the mother could safely place her child while she went on with her creative efforts. There were also no adequate hospitals and no proper organization of the multifareous domestic arts requisite to a complete and happy home.

IN THESE circumstances women had definitely to choose between the life of the race and liberty to develop their own potentialities. They could not at one and the same time take care of a sick child and compose music. They could not spin and weave and preserve the good fresh fruits and simultaneously chisel beautiful marbles. When their day's work in the home was done, they had no time or energy or brains left over for any creative enterprise. They were swamped by the entirely compelling detail of their everyday life and their genius, if they had any, went overboard.

The fact that their sacrifice was not altogether volitional, but was required of them by current social standards, only made their humiliation more complete. They were regarded not as the givers of life, but as the servants of life, slaves of the flame that was entrusted to them.

That any women at all escaped from such close-set meshes is the wonder. If the genius of men were to be measured by the productivity of lads all under twenty years of age, it would score not much higher than the genius of women.

Even today women in large measure face the problem of Life versus Liberty. The scarcity of nursery schools, the unconquered diseases of childhood and infancy, the assumption, deep as the ages, that the mother, and not the father, must fill in, out of her own time, any hiatus in the child's daily schedule, places the two sexes in a very different relation to creative work.

Women have a long way to go before they can harmonize their universe as perfectly as men have succeeded in doing. And they will never succeed by dodging the issue; by minding the baby with one hand while they create with the other. Preventive medicine and child-caring agencies, such as pre-schools and kindergartens, must be developed on a much more comprehensive basis before the ancient antagonism between life and liberty can be broken down in the case of women.

Meanwhile the gratitude of mankind for the priceless gift of life will continue to reflect itself in the dogma that women lack creative ability. At least women have created the creators, a task which the Almighty has obviously seen fit to attach to women alone through their heart strings.

Modern Women Demand Chance in Musical Field

Radio speech of Ethel Leginska, internationally known musician, delivered over Station WJZ, New York City, on March 4. The program was arranged by the New York State Branch of the National Woman's Party in co-operation with the broadcasting company.

IT is 1932! One hundred years have passed since that great woman genius, Jane Austen, used the medium of one of her characters to send out the protest which filled her very soul at the subjection of women, particularly of talented women. She said: "I am not born to sit still and do nothing. If I lose the game, it shall not be from not striving to win." The modern woman finds the path not much easier, if her goal is real accomplishment and development, than did her sister worker of earlier generations, particularly if her chosen field is that of music.

We proudly note that women are daily forcing themselves by sheer ability into the market of the world—in law, medicine, science, executive positions, literature, and in many fields the names of certain women are coming to the fore.

But in music, unless a woman has a colossal talent for public performing and has pushed herself into the list of current celebrities by overcoming obstacles which it would have been deemed insanity to place in the path of her brother, she has little chance not only to develop her art but even to earn her bread and butter, (and women musicians, too, must eat.) That time-worn fable about "Woman's sphere being the home" surely has nothing to do with a day and age when there are not enough men to supply the necessary homes. What about the extra women? If their talents lie in the path of music, if they can play an orchestral instrument as well as a man and desire to become an integral part of that greatest of all musical integrations, a symphony orchestra, why should they not be permitted to do so? But they are not so permitted, excepting in a very few and exceptional instances.

As one who takes not the pleasant middle path of neutrality, but declares herself on the stony uphill road of being for and with women, I dread to touch upon her accomplishments in the most important branch of music, that of composition. There is so little, comparatively speaking, that woman has accomplished in this direction that I have searched for and found more than enough reasons to justify the dearth of productivity. First of all, women are, and always have been, encouraged to be musical. They are taught to execute music, not to create it. The number of men who study the theory of music and the principals of musical compostion outnumber the women by about fifty to one. Also, the average woman discontinues active study of music (and of everything else which would increase her creative ability) somewhere around the age of twenty, while the average man musician continues his studies much longer. The greatest enemy of all to a woman's creative ability in music is the constant demand upon her thoughts and time by things practical. Because she is a woman, she is expected to have her time and faculties at the disposal of anyone, at any moment. A man offends no one by devoting his waking hours to even a pastime, to say nothing of his work or profession. This is held sacred from the moment when his mother finds his book, his aunt brings his coat and hat and his sister takes him to kindergarten. Women! If you have something in you which you feel you could give to the world, don't be satisfied with snatching only casual moments for your work! Look to the women who have achieved great things in the field of statesmanship, religion, science and literature. There is quite a formidable array of them and practically each one of them gave all she had of life to her work. There was Cleopatra, Agrippa, Judith, the Medici women, Joan of Arc, St. Catherine, Florence Nightingale, Madam Curie. In literary fields our mind jumps from Sappho to those intellectual women of the seventeenth and eighteenth century France, Marie de France, Mme. de la Fayette, Mme. de Sèvigné and on to Rosa Bonheur. The nineteenth century turns our thought to England and those immortals, Jane Austen, the Brontës, and George Elliot, not forgetting Christina Rossetti. Let us proudly look in the latter years to American women novelists and poets. One whom we must go far afield to find exception to was Emily Dickinson. If the average reader of today were asked concerning the chief contemporary American novelists of today, his list must surely include at least two women, Willa Cather and Edith Wharton, and among American poets would be included Eleanor Wylie, Sara Teasdale and Edna Millay.

But to return to music, and woman's progress in it, who were the women musicians whose deeds have survived them?

I am not going to touch upon the careers of women singers for several reasons. One of these is the fact that, as it has been impossible for men to make a success of singing soprano or contralto operatic roles, they seem to have not made too strong an objection to women having this privilege. Then, too, singing, while it is perhaps the most beautiful of all forms of musical expression, as it is the most natural and God-given, does not require the gruelling years of study and heartbreak that other branches of music do. In fact many unkind people discriminate between singers and musicians. However, I, personally, am much too fond of singers to do this.

In looking back among the musical peaks, one finds standing quite prominently the personality and accomplishments of Clara Wieck, later Clara Schumann. She was the greatest woman pianist the world had known at that time and had a brilliant career as a concert pianist from her ninth year. Not only were her performances all that was brilliant and musicianally, but she carried the banner for the composers in whose work she believed. She played Bach in public at a time when no other virtuoso dared to. She gave the first public performance of Beethoven's "Appassionata Conata" before a sceptical audience. While the critics were warning Germany against Chopin, she was teaching it to understand him.

Before her marriage to Robert Schumann at nineteen years of age, we find her with quite a number of compositions to her credit, these including a concerto, sets of variations, groups of piano pieces, songs, etc. But in the later years when her creative talents should have matured to their fullest extent, we find her composing and even her playing, side issues in her life, only thought of in the odd moments which were not devoted to her husband, his work and their children. No doubt she lit the flame of her husband's genius, soothed him in his overwhelming spells of despondency, was his most severe and helpful critic and encouraged him in all of his hopes, but one cannot find that any real personal progress of her art was evinced after her marriage. She writes in her diary: "After so long a time, I am once again at work at my piano. I fell in my element. I am much freer and lighter and everything seems much brighter. Now all the birds are alive and sing the whole day long."

Alas! Upon turning the page of the same diary, we discover that the following week she was forced to find a new house for herself and family because Robert was being disturbed by street noises. She says, "These are dreadful days. I cannot play on account of all sorts of household occupations." With evidence of this kind, can we honestly believe that Clara Schumann's musical ability was developed to anything like the extent of its possibilities?

Another woman musician who showed uncommon musical ability as pianist and composer at a phenominally early age was Fanny Mendelssohn. She was four years older than her brother Felix, and through-

out his life he took to her sympathetic and understanding ear all of his problems and relied extensively upon her judgment. At an early age she wrote many songs and the first volume of her brother's compositions to be published contained twelve of her songs and eight composed by her brother. She was said, by her mother, to have been born with "Bach Fugue fingers," and rather lived up to the quotation by memorizing at the age of thirteen and playing for her father as a surprise on his birthday twenty-four of the Bach preludes and fugues. She was a brilliant pianist and because she belonged to one of the most musical and cultured families of the day, was allowed to study harmony and the elements of musical composition, but her father often advised her to "become more steady and collected and to prepare more eagerly and earnestly for her real calling, the only calling of a young women, the state of a housewife." She evidently followed his advice as the last record to be found of her as a composer is that she wrote her own wedding anthem. It occurs to us that her brother, too, wrote rather a nice wedding march, the famous "Wedding March"—but fortunately for posterity he continued to the extent of hundreds of compositions while she "settled down."

Coming down the years we have glimpses of women pianists such as Essipoff, Menter and America's own Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler. But their names are remembered only as interpreters. One woman showed early and considerable ability at a youthful age both as composer and pianist. That woman was Cécile Chaminade. By the time she had reached her eighteenth year her compositions were being so widely performed that the majority of the critics took it for granted that the name belonged to a man. They were set right by one critic who wrote: "This is not a woman who composes, but a composer who happens to be a woman."

The beautiful Teresa Carreno, called the "Valkyr of the piano," toured Europe and America for years as the greatest woman pianist of her day, and also sang operatic roles in many cities. Her compositions, though not of outstanding musical worth, were of considerable number. The same is true of her husbands.

She had five husbands by the way, none of whom succeeded in checking the progress of her career. Undoubtedly she was a strong-minded woman!

Coming to the women composers of today, there is Germaine Taillefere, who is doing notable work in France. There is Dame Ethel Smythe in England, who has a great number of worthwhile and interesting musical works to her credit; and there is, here in America, Mrs. H. H. A. Beach with a formidable list of important and inspired compositions, including a symphony, a piano concerto, several cantatas, a mass and a vast number of shorter works. So you see women are progressing musically.

In rooting for the woman musician, I should like to express the admiration and esteem which we all feel for that wonderful organization, the National Woman's Party, which strives so wholeheartedly and unselfishly for all the women in America to give them a fuller and freer existence.

How can a world look for creative art from women whose minds, emotions and very lives have been more savagely distorted through years of stifled ambitions and stupid laws than have the feet of the Chinese women by custom-demanded bandages?

I am heartily in sympathy with every attempt to improve the status of women in the law, in custom, in all the professions and in industry. Women need not so-called protection and privilege but simply equality of opportunity, and an equal chance to develop their talents. The National Woman's Party, has ever since the winning of the vote devoted its energy to removing discriminations against women in the law and in custom.

When the Woman's Party, as a result of the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, for which it is working, has made a reality of equality for women with men before the law, then we can hope to find a woman Beethoven.

In the meantime all of you women who are with me today feel with me the urge to stand by women and give them a chance to do the work they love best, whatever it may be. Inspired by interest in her work, the woman of average attainments finds herself possessed of unsuspected power which brings a fuller existence not only to her but to all those with whom her life is entwined.

Open Door International Submits Demands

THE Open Door International recently submitted its views to the International Labor Office on items which were on the agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the governing body of that office, held in January of this year. These items deal with phases of women's work.

The object of the Open Door International is "to secure that a woman shall be free to work and protected as a worker on the same terms as a man, and that legislation and regulations dealing with conditions and hours, payment, entry and training shall be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker."

The views of the Open Door International, as stated to the International Labor Office, are in part as follows:

"The Open Door International desires emphatically to state that it is opposed *to any proposal to regulate the work of women underground in a manner different from that in which the work of men underground is regulated.* In particular the Open Door International is opposed to the suggestion that such work should be prohibited to women only; to limit the opportunities of women to earn their living is to lower their status as workers and to damage them economically. The women of India who, in spite of their protests, are now being turned out of the mines because of recent prohibitive legislation in that country are at this very moment deprived of the work they know and have chosen to do. They are being left without work or with no choice but work they would otherwise reject because it is less well paid. It is better to have the choice of disagreeable work—as work underground undoubtedly is for both men and women—than the alternative of under-payment or unemployment above ground.

"Moreover it is *inappropriate to suggest that women should be dealt with along with young persons* in this matter; women are adult persons and should be treated as such along with men, while young persons are immature beings for whom special regulations may appropriately be made.

"The Open Door International therefore urges the governing body not to place the question of the underground work of women on the Agenda of the 1933 International Labor Conference.

"Scope of Report of International Labor Office

"Item 4 of the agenda brings up for discussion a report which the governing body at its fifty-fifth session instructed the office to make to this session. The report is to describe 'the present state of the organization's activities as regards women's work and to consider to what extent and under what conditions the studies undertaken by the office on this subject could be extended in collaboration with the organizations concerned, in particular by setting up an advisory committee or a committee of experts'.

"Kinds of Enquiry Dangerous or Helpful to Women

"The International Labor Office has for its task to improve the conditions of all workers, women as well as men. The governing body at this session has to decide what kind of enquiry, if any, will really help the woman worker.

"The kind of enquiry which does more harm than good: An enquiry which is merely a tabulation of existing conditions and based on the assumption that these conditions are in the nature of things and cannot be improved would be damaging to women and not helpful.

"The article on 'Women's Work' of the I. L. O. Correspondence Committee on Industrial Hygiene (published by the I. L. O. in the Encyclopaedia Occupation and Health) is of a kind which does harm to women. Its compilers have approached the subject from a sentimental point of view. They have forgotten that women, all down the ages, have been accustomed to take their full share of physical labor. At times they have overlooked the fact that it is the conditions under which the labor of either men or women is performed and not the labor itself which is harmful. They have acted on the assumption that women are and must remain lower grade workers, segregated in the unskilled badly-paid jobs. They had lacked the vision to see in a change of status the possibility of raising the whole level of women's work.

"The Correspondence Committee of Industrial Hygiene has further proposed that the International Labor Office should enquire 'into the conditions under which a married woman employed in industry is at present situated as regards the fulfillment of her triple role of industrial worker, wife and housekeeper, and mother of children'. Implicit in this question is the assumption that even when the woman as well as the man works in industry she is to do the necessary housework and housekeeping and looking after the children but that he is not to share this work with her. Such an enquiry can only be harmful to women. It assumes that that particular unfair division of labor is in the nature of things and shows no realization that the difficulty can be got over by the husband taking an equal share in the work necessary in connection with the home and children.

"The danger to the economic freedom of woman from a body which approaches the problem of her work in this way is indicated by the other proposal of the committee for limiting her economic rights. *It proposes to draw up a list of operations from which women of child-bearing age should be excluded.* It proposes also to work in the direction of securing the reduction of the working hours for married women and mothers. These proposals, if carried into effect, would seriously limit such women in their choice of employment.

"But in this connection, these proposals are of interest as making clear how dangerous is an enquiry not guided by the idea of seeking to raise the status and pay of the women to that of the male worker.

"*Enquiries which might help the women worker:* On the other hand, an enquiry in which it is realized that the present economically low position of women relatively to that of men is due to *conditions which can be altered,* and the aim of which is to ascertain the *facts concerning her status in order to improve that status might be of great value.* Madame Boschok raises the vital issues when she proposes to direct the enquiry to the status and wages of women, to the occupations open to them, and the special laws applicable to them. Some people consider that these laws give protection to women; the view of the *Open Door International is that they are the chief obstacles* in the way of real improvement in women's economic status.

"*Equal pay for equal work an essential question:* The seventh general principle of the constitution of the International Labor Office that 'men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value' is relevant in this connection. The International Labor Office has as yet taken no steps towards putting this principle into practice, apart from a reference to its existence in a recommendation appended to the draft minimum wage-fixing machinery convention. Any enquiry into the work of women can only be helpful to women if it is inspired with the idea of finding out how equal pay can best be established. And this principle should, like the other principles of the I. L. O., be incorporated in a draft international convention.

"*Some factors contributing to the lower status and pay of the women: points on which information would be useful:* Any investigation which is to help the woman worker must produce information about the factors which contribute to her lower status and pay. In almost every country women are excluded from certain occupations or denied the same opportunities as a man for education, apprenticeship, training and admission to examination tests. Equal pay can only be really effective if with it go also equal sickness and unemployment benefits, equal pensions, and equal minimum wage rates. Trade-union rules may deny her right to work in certain processes. She may be forbidden to work underground or at night. She may be placed under other restrictions not imposed on men. In many countries marriage is penalized; the woman is not a free agent to enter a contract of employment without the consent of her husband or of the court; she may not have the control of her earnings or the right personally to enforce their payment. All these factors affect her status and the possibility of good pay. And a step necessary to improving the woman's economic status is to have information on these points. For example, in many countries today the position of the woman worker is so low and in all countries the vested interests of the male worker to the best paid and most skilled jobs so strongly entrenched that it is difficult to find examples of men and women really working under the same conditions. For this reason it is very difficult to find out what women are able to do either with respect to skilled or heavy work. It would be of special value to ascertain the types of skilled and heavy work she may be doing in any country.

"*The Open Door International therefore,* (1) points out that the report of any committee cannot pretend to be objective if the committee has no members who see special restrictions imposed on women as a lowering of their status and an attack on their earning capacity, and (2) urges that any enquiry into women's work (a) should be largely directed to the question of the status of women workers relatively to that of men; (b) should include in its purview the establishment of equal pay for equal work with a view to the adoption of a draft convention."

The following resolution was adopted at the Stockholm Conference of the Open Door International for the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker, held last August:

Resolution No. 7. *The attack by the International Labor Office on woman's right to earn.*

The Open Door International calls attention to an original report by Dr. Fuss (Geneva) revised by the Correspondence Committee on Industrial Hygiene of the International Labor Office and published by that office as an article entitled "Woman's Work" (No. 152), in a series of brochures called "Occupation and Health," described as "An Encyclopaedia of Hygiene, Pathology and Social Welfare, studied from the point of view of labor, industry and trade."

The article which quotes many differing opinions of supposed experts and is full of contradictions and irrelevancies, makes among others the following general statements, namely that:

(a) "The injurious effects of labor on the the female organism are established by quite a series of statistical data (*i. e.,* industrial labor) (p. 2).

(b) "The injurious effect of employment on women is proved" (*i. e.,* industrial employment) (p. 2).

(c) "According to Bernays, the rhythm of machinery is not adapted to the female organism" (p. 4).

(d) "Intellectual work is said to be a still heavier cause of sickness among women" (p. 4).

(e) "The same holds good for those engaged in office work" (p. 4).

(f) "Fatigue and over-pressure of work are . . . without doubt a greater cause of female sickness than poverty" (p. 18).

The article also quotes with approbation a statement by Vicarelli that "the pregnant woman suffers from her surroundings, which in turn are none the better for her presence" (p. 7).

Further, in some instances the statements made in the French version of the article do not correspond with those in the English version, as for example where the corresponding sections of the two versions read as follows:

ENGLISH VERSION

"Under the present social conditions, the acceptance of paid work is an imperative economic necessity for a great number of women, and whether it be a desirable state of affairs or not, it is one which in all countries is in course of rapid development. Consequently, there exists a strong obligation to provide adequate means of protecting as far as possible the physical well-being of women workers" (p. 22).

FRENCH VERSION

"Que la femme soit plus à sa place à la maison qu'au travail, et que, théoriquement, il serait souhaitable de l'exclure, surtout si elle est mariée, de tout travail industriel, car la femme devrait être considérée comme un élément de notre civilisation plutôt que comme un élément de

travail, il n'en reste pas moins vrai que, dans les conditions sociales actuelles, le travail représente pour la femme une nécessité économique" (p. 23).

And finally, the article proposes that further restrictions should be placed upon the right of women to engage in paid work.

The Open Door International declares that this article, which purports to be scientific and objective, is in effect entirely unscientific and is in the nature of misleading propaganda; and that it is a scandal that an article of this calibre should be published by a responsible organization.

The Open Door International therefore calls upon the International Labor Office to withdraw from its Encyclopaedia "Occupation and Health" this article which in effect is an attack upon, and propaganda against, the personal and economic rights of more than half the human race.

An Attitude

By Hazel Clark Taylor
Former Professor of English, University of the Philippines

WHY is it that the male employer discriminates so radically against a widow-with-children who feels justified in 'applying for the vacancy'? I believe that the reason for the poor salaries of school teachers is the fact that the taxpayer has unfortunately hit upon that subtle means of an unconscious retaliation against his own unhappy school days. When an applicant for a position confesses herself to be a widow, could the male employer be so much stirred by suppressed memories against widows, as that of having to wear some ill-fitting pair of trousers or offending shirt which his thoughtful mother had the Widow-So-and-So make to help the poor woman out, that he prefers to give the position to anyone else? However, it may only be that the new and inexperienced has the greater lure, like a new and shining thing which has to be protected against time, like a promise—though unfulfilled and untried.

Perhaps the employer has something of the same philosophy expressed by our house-man who resented having to polish an antique table with nothing but floor wax, when a dab of varnish would have disguised it as new.

"Now, just a little varnish on that there table would help a heap, Miss. No offence, but I wouldn't give fifty cents for that table that-a-way 'less I wanted it for a work bench."

"No offense, Davis, you just don't care for antiques, that is all."

"No, Mam, I don't care nothing for no antiques. No Mam! Law, I ain't had nothing since I 'ze been born, 'cept antiques,—antique coats, antique hats, antique shoes! No, Mam, when this here brown man spends his money for somethin', he spends it for somethin' new and shinin'!"

Whatever the employer's philosophy may be, I have had occasion to be impressed with his attitude that a widow with two children should not violate propriety and tradition by applying for any work dignified by the term *position*. If she can't take in washing, or do plain sewing, she should remain on her own useless doormat to starve in a lady-like manner, asking the children to be as well behaved as possible during the process.

There seems to be a difference between the attitude toward the widow whom Providence has bereft, and that toward the widow who of her own volition has allowed her former mate the freedom to pursue his own career unhampered by irksome bonds of family obligation. The employer usually leans across his desk and says in an undertone:

"Not that it makes any difference, but —er—is your former husband living or dead?"

If one comes draped in widow's weeds, one may appeal to a manly protection, but if one comes who has the audacity to admit, "I severed a strangling knot with my own little hatchet," one is looked upon with suspicion and misgiving, as if that act of courage had quite depleted one's moral integrity and homely virtues.

Moreover, it would seem out of the question to think of considering a mother for any sort of position requiring academic training or intellectual responsibilities. It would seem that maternity had dissipated all of one's native intelligence and scholarly attainments, the more children the more so like a system of filters, until one is reduced at last to a single ability—the ability to function in that way which distinguishes the mammal from the other young producing animals. Besides, what if the children should get the measles!

Status of Women in Russia and in America

By Tom Barter
(*Reprinted from the Daily Worker*)

GOING up and down the streets of Moscow, Kharkhov, Leningrad or any other city of the Soviet Union, one is immediately impressed by the fact that the status of the women here is much different than what it is in the United States of America or any other capitalist country. This is evident not from the way they dress, because women as well as men in the Soviet Union do not dress in "style" yet, but it is evident from the things they do.

If you pass by a building under construction you see women laying bricks, plastering walls and handling electric wires. If you go into one of the machine shops you see women running lathes, planers, milling machines, etc., not as helpers but as full-fledged mechanics. If you mount a trolley car or a motor bus the one that collects 10 kopeeks fare is a woman. In short, you find them working on every one of the skilled jobs which in America we are used to think that only men can do.

Not only in industries do you find women occupying key positions, but also in politics. You find them in some of the most important posts of the government and the Communist Party, in the administration of the Co-operatives and the Trade Unions; you also find women in every branch of the Red Army, not as private secretaries and stenographers, as is the case in America and the rest of the capitalist countries, but as leaders of departments.

In the Soviet Union the historical slave of the kitchen and the washtub has become a free individual. Free and equal to man in every activity of life, not as a competitor as it is in the capitalist countries but as a comrade in the struggle to build Socialism, to build a better future for all.

Sure enough in America women also work in industries, there are no less than 9,000,000 of them, but this does not mean freedom to them. On the contrary, they remain slaves to the kitchen, the washtub and the scrubbing brush, and in addition become slaves to the boss. Going into the factory for a woman in America means doing two days' work in one.

A typical example of the slave conditions of working women in America is to be found in the textile industry of Passaic, N. J. Women in those mills are now working 12 hours a day and when they get through with that they have their housework accumulated waiting for them. This is not the worst. In the same center women are working nights and when they get home in the morning they have to prepare breakfast for their husbands who work day time, they also have to wash,

dress and feed the children and send them to school. It will be 9 or 10 o'clock before they can try to rest, but at that hour the street noise makes it impossible. At three o'clock the children come back from school hungry, and then she also must start to prepare supper and get ready to go back to work again. During the week-end they do the heavy washing.

Besides all this, and especially during this period of unemployment, in many cases women are compelled to give their body to the boss or foreman in order to keep their jobs. Numerous cases of this kind were found and exposed during the Passaic textile strike of 1926. The writer was present at a meeting of striking dressmakers in New York City and heard a young girl relate the following:

"Our boss changes the whole crew almost every week. If among the old workers he sees a pretty girl he gives her a break. He wants her to stay in order to take advantage of her. It is hard as hell to work in that place and remain decent."

This is the life of working women in the American factories; two days of work in one, slavery and degradation of all descriptions. The Negroes and the foreign-born women are the ones that suffer most from this double exploitation and slavery, and all this they do in competition with the men because the bosses have not drawn the women into industries for the purpose of emancipating them, but to make them take the place of men for less pay. The bosses find in women and young workers a source of cheap labor to throw into competition with men and thereby cut the wages of the entire working class.

Here in the Soviet Union the revolution has done away with this competition. Women do not take the place of men for less pay and as a result of it men do not resent nor resist the coming of women into the skilled posts of industry and public life. Furthermore the Soviet Government has created the institutions necessary to free the women from the drudgery of housework entirely.

Housework here is being done in factories on a mass scale the same as any other kind of work. Every factory has its kitchen and dining room, producing and serving food in great quantities, better in quality and more economically than any home kitchen can produce it.

The kitchen of the Micoyana Shoe Factory of Rostov serves 29,000 meals a day. In these dining rooms all the adult members of the family eat, the children eat in school and the home kitchen is disappearing. The infants are taken care of in the nurseries, the laundry does the washing and the woman is freed from housework. Home for her is not another factory, but a place to rest.

This great contrast must be brought to the attention of the working women of America and the rest of the capitalist countries. It must be explained to them in detail and on the basis of it urged to organize in the revolutionary unions and the Communist Party and struggle together with the men for the overthrow of the capitalist system and for a Soviet system—the only system that can liberate them from the present slavery.

Feminist Notes

Women Judges in Turkey

THREE new women judges have recently been apopinted to the Courts of Angora, Stamboul, and Smyrna in Turkey.

This brings the number of Turkish women holding official positions in the administration of justice up to nine.

First Woman Councillor

THOUGH the first woman ever elected to the State Council of Ceylon, Mrs. Molamure polled nearly two-thirds of the votes recorded in an electorate where the men outnumber the women two to one. She won over three other candidates, all men.

Firing Wives

SEVERE hardship in many cases, against only trivial relief, if any, would result from discharging married women workers.

This is the conclusion drawn by the industrial research department of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and Commerce following a survey.

Results of the survey show that of the estimated 34,000 Philadelphia families in which a married woman was employed full time, a total of 9,660 had no earnings except those obtained from the full-time employment of the married women.

In an additional 1,590 families, all the employable members, except the married women, were either totally unemployed or employed only part time. And in the remaining 22,750 families, 5,050 had one or more wage earners totally unemployed or employed only part time, so that individual consideration would have to be given them before any action could be taken to displace the married women workers without causing widespread distress.

Many of these families may already be living below the level of minimum health and comfort, the report says, and in many others further reduction of family income would immediately result in this condition.

Prosperity Under a Woman Boss

SINCE the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company has had a woman manager, Josephine Roche, it has prospered, the *Colorado Labor Advocate* reports.

From 1928 to 1929, production in the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company increased, the average number of working days increased, and the miner's average earnings were larger.

In 1930, although it, like all industries, felt the depression, its output decreased only 13 per cent. as against the 17½ per cent. decrease for the State as a whole. And in spite of this decreased production, the company's 1930 production cost remained the same as in 1920, due to the fact that the tonnage produced per man increased nearly half a ton daily.

Average annual earnings were $1,770 in 1930, as compared with $1,104 in 1929 and $1,660 in 1928. The decrease in 1930 is due, says the *Advocate*, to the socially significant policy adopted of rotating work among all men instead of laying some off.

Like Mother, Like Daughter

MISSISSIPPI believes in the legislative ability of the women of the Somerville family.

Mrs. Joseph M. Howorth of Jackson, Mississippi, member of the present Mississippi House of Representatives, is the daughter of Nellie Nugent Somerville, the first woman Representative of Mississippi, who was elected to the House for the 1926-28 term.

Mrs. Howorth is a practicing attorney of Howorth & Howorth, in which her husband is her associate. In assuming her first elective office she has carried on a family tradition. Her grandfather, Col. William Nugent, was a noted figure in Mississippi affairs, a Confederate officer who fought in defense of the State capital, and a prominent member of the State Bar.

Mrs. Somerville was the first president of the Mississippi Suffrage Association.

Beirut's First Woman Doctor

AMONG the eleven women graduates of the University of Beirut in the class of 1931 was Dr. Adma Ilyas Abu-Shadid, the first woman to receive a medical degree. She has established a clinic of her own in Beirut and is working in the Obstetrical Department of the University Hospital.

Her sister graduated from the School of Pharmacy and has opened her own pharmacy in Beirut.

Feminist Mayor

LUDMILLA ZATLOUKALOVE-COUFALOVA, well-known Feminist, has been elected Mayor of Svesedlice in Moravia, Czechoslovakia.

News from the Field

Congratulate Doris Stevens

THE following letter, received recently by Doris Stevens, indicates not only the high honor in which Miss Stevens is internationally held, but also the universality of the demand for Equal Rights. Upon our request Miss Stevens kindly granted us permission to reprint the letter:

Haarlem, The Netherlands,
January 25, 1932.

Miss Doris Stevens,
Chairman Inter-American
Commission of Women,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Stevens:

The Women's Liberal Federation (Women's Group in the Liberal Party of The Netherlands) assembled at its annual meeting at Leiden, January 14, 1932, having been informed by its president of your appointment as one of the five members of the U. S. A. in the American Institute of International Law, unanimously resolved to convey to you the wholehearted congratulations of the meeting.

It may be of interest to you to know that the Liberal Party of The Netherlands advocates since 1920 in its Constitution *equal political, economic and social rights for men and women.*

At its annual congress in 1927 the Liberal Party passed the following resolutions:

1. That women functionaries ought not to be dismissed for the only reason of marriage.

2. That the necessary improvements in marriage laws ought to be based on the principle of juridical equality of men and women.

The Women's Liberal Federation is ever on guard that no infraction be made to these principles and has undertaken a special campaign throughout the country against dismissal of employed married women.

The Women's Liberal Federation of The Netherlands follows with the greatest interest the work which is being done by the Inter-American Commission of Women under your able chairmanship.

With greetings and best wishes for the success of your work.

For the Women's Liberal Federation
of The Netherlands:
(Signed) LOUISE C. A. VANEEGHEN,
President.
E. SCHELTEMA CONRADI,
Hon. Secretary.

Equal Labor Bills

THE trend toward equality in legislation regulating the hours of labor is revealed in a number of bills introduced into the Seventy-second Congress and now pending before various committees. There are bills providing for a shorter workday for postal employes, men and women alike; bills providing for a five-day week for certain Government employes, with no discrimination based on sex; resolutions to authorize the Interstate Commerce Commission to make an investigation as to the possibility of establishing a six-hour day for railway employes—"all classes and each particular class of railway employes without reduction in daily pay;" bills providing a 33-hour week for "all laborers, helpers, skilled and semi-skilled workmen and mechanics, civil employes of the Federal Government and the District of Columbia;" bills providing that six hours shall be deemed a day's work for all railway employes, with no sex discrimination.

Immigration Equality

THE Senate has passed and sent to the House of Reprsentatives the bill introduced by Senator William H. King of Utah, which exempts from the immigration quota the husbands of American citizens. The wives of American citizens are already exempted. It was discussed only briefly in the Senate, its author pointing out that it gives men the same rights women now have.

It works for Equal Rights both ways, of course, as it gives American wives the same right to bring their alien husbands into this country as American husbands now have.

The American Federation of Labor opposed an identical bill in a hearing before the House of Representatives Committee on Immigration and Naturalization.

Labor Legislation for Massachusetts

MEMBERS of the Massachusetts Branch have been busy at the State House recently attending hearings on labor bills which would apply to women only.

On February 9 Marjorie Gillis, Alma Lutz, and Josephine Casey, who left her work in Rhode Island for a few days to confer with women workers in Massachusetts, attended a hearing on a 36-hour bill. There was much confusion regarding the wording of the bill, which was an "Act Relative to the Working Hours of Women and Children in Certain Employments," but which in its principal clause prohibited the employment of "persons" for more than 36 hours a week. Neither the petitioner, Thomas A. Niland, nor the sponsor, Thomas F. Carroll, seemed quite sure as to the intent of the bill except as a measure to relieve unemployment. Representatives of the Woman's Party said that they opposed the bill if it was interpreted as applying to women only.

The Committee on Public Welfare, before whom the hearing was held, said it was a bill which did not properly come before them, and referred it to the Committee on Labor and Industries. There will be another hearing before this committee in the near future.

On February 10 Marjorie Gillis and Josephine Casey appeared before the Committee on Constitutional Law at a hearing on a measure introduced by Roland D. Sawyer of Ware and Charles H. Morrill of Haverhill "that Congress be memorialized in favor of an amendment to the Constitution to give Congress the power to regulate hours of labor."

Miss Casey explained to the committee that the Woman's Party would insist that such Federal regulation of hours of labor must apply to men and women alike.

Council President Appointed

WITH the approval of Mayor Jackson and the Board of Estimates of Baltimore, Maryland, Daniel C. Joseph, attorney, recently was selected by the Law Department to collect, on a commission basis, approximately $1,400,000 of tax judgments obtained by the city in the courts in recent years.

Mr. Joseph was the leader in the House of Delegates in 1929 of the insurgent faction headed by Mayor Jackson and his political ally, Charles E. Bichy.

Selection of Mr. Joseph for the tax judgment collection work was announced by R. E. Lee Marshall, City Solicitor of Baltimore, on February 16, and he was authorized in the agreement to employ ten attorneys as assistants.

Mr. Joseph gave one of the positions to Ida I. Kloze, president of the Business and Professional Women's Council of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party. She is an active worker in the ranks of the Democratic women in the city and candidate for appointment as an Assistant City Solicitor to succeed Emilie A. Doetsch, resigned.

Miss Kloze was the only woman to be named by Mr. Joseph.

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